EXPECT NOVEL TO TESTIFY S-1 10/6/67

Governor Approves Funds For B.R. Jury Crime Probe

East Baton Rouge Parish Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher said today Gov. John J. McKeithen has approved his request for state funds in financing his parish grand jury's investigation of organized crime.

Both the East Baton Rouge and Orleans Parish juries are conducting separate crime probes (Orleans Grand Jury has not requested funds) in the wake of charges in Life magazine that Costa Nostra operations are rampant in the state. Pitcher did not estimate how much in state funds will be needed.

PITCHER also said he expects elusive witness Gordon Novel to return to Louisiana next week to testify in the crime probe.

He said he had assurances from other officials, including Gov. McKeithen and Orleans DA Jim Garrison, that Novel will be granted immunity from arrest in connection with Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Novel has promised sensational disclosures in the crime probe if he is protected from Garrison, who has tried without success to extradite him.

Other developments today in the crime probe included:

—Life magazine reporter David L. Chandler was subpenaed to appear before the Orleans jury at 10 a. m. Oct. 11.

—The East Baton Rouge jury resumed its probe and Pitcher said he expected it to be in session "quite a while." Asked how long this was, he said, "How long is a piece of string?"

—Pitcher said former governor's aide Aubrey Young, a key figure in the probe, has been released from custody of

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a state mental hospital.

THERE WAS NO explanation for the subpena of Chandler. Life magazine touched off both crime probes with a series of articles charging that organized crime is rampant in Louisiana.

The Orleans jury had been scheduled to resume its work next Thursday, but the date was moved up to Wednesday because of the Columbus Day holiday.

Pitcher declined to say whether new indictments by the Baton Rouge jury are pending.

Thus far, one person has been indicted by the grand jury. D'Alton Smith, former New Orleans electrical contractor, is accused of public bribery in offering $25,000 to Aubrey Young to arrange a meeting.

PITCHER ALSO is investigating Young's connections with rackets figure Carlos Marcello. Young had received a number of phone calls from Marcello.

Pitcher said Novel will have immunity from arrest while in Louisiana and freedom to return to Columbus, Ohio, or wherever else he wants to go.

He said he had received approval of his immunity plan from Garrison, Jefferson District Attorney Frank K. Langridge and Terrebonne Attorney Wilmore Broussard.

Pitcher says he also wants to confer with Gov. John J. McKeithen about assuring Novel he will be free from arrest.

OFFICIALLY, NOVEL is charged with conspiracy to commit burglary in Orleans and is wanted in Terrebonne on burglary charges in connection with the removal of munitions from a dump at Houma.

The district attorney said the immunity is limited to arrest on any other charges and does not extend to anything involving his appearance.

Novel claims to have information of a sensational nautre involving organized crime. He also claims he can blow apart Garrison's investigation of the presidential assassination.

Pitcher said he did not want to prejudge any testimony which Novel might give to the grand jury.

The district attorney, accompanied by his first assistant, the foreman of the grand jury, and Young, went to Chicago this week in an evidence-gathering journey.

Pitcher insisted he found substantial information about organized crime and said he will present the information to the grand jury today.

MEANWHILE, YOUNG continued under guard from the East Baton Rouge sheriff's office. Pitcher asked for assistance in guarding Young.

Smith is wanted for questioning about efforts to get Baton Rouge Teamster boss James Edward Partin to change his testimony about International Teamster head James Hoffa. Partin's testimony helped send Hoffa to federal prison.

Smith posted a $1,500 fugitive bond in Denton, Tex., and is still at large. Bond of $25,000 has been set for him in Baton Rouge on the bribery charge.

Young had been committed to the state mental hospital at Mandeville on Sept. 18 by his mother. While Gov. McKeithen was in New York conferring with Life editors about the series of articles on organized crime, he ordered state police guards posted about Young for his protection.

THE ORLEANS PARISH jury recessed its probe yesterday after hearing from the governor and a rackets figure.

Gov. McKeithen said he had no startling revelations during his 90 minutes before the jury, but "I answered all the questions freely and glad to do so."

The man who Life tabbed as the crime kingpin, Carlos Marcello, also testified yesterday. "Lies, all lies," was all he would say when newsmen asked him about Cosa Nostra operations.

The jury also heard J. Marshall Brown, state Democratic national committeeman. He was in the jury room about five minutes. He declined comment afterwards.

The governor was accompanied by State Police Superintendent Col. Thomas Burbank and two state troopers. McKeithen has been under special guard following a threat against his life.